



Neath and Tennant Canals Trust

Quarterly Newsletter

Dec. 2010 – No. 134



Improvement work on the Neath Canal at Ynysarwed – Dec 2010.

News.

Chairman.

In the September meeting of the Council of Management officers were elected for the year 2010/2011. Peter Ricketts, our Chairman for many years, did not seek re-election so the post of Chairman is now vacant. We would like to thank Peter for his many years service to the Trust as Chairman and you can rest assured that his enthusiasm towards the restoration of the Neath and Tennant Canals will continue. He remains a member of the Council of Management.

Thomas Dadford.

The Thomas Dadford is now out of the water for the winter. The footbridge at B&Q is closed for repairs and there is scaffolding blocking the canal so the boat could not be lifted out at Bridge Street as usual. The boat was sailed up to Aberdulais Basin and was lifted out there. Thankfully there is not much work to be done on the boat this winter due to the full refurbishment carried out earlier this year. The engine has been removed and is in the local Honda dealer for a service. Some of the new window blanks did not fit properly and were returned to the manufacturer. These have now been returned and two still do not fit! The outlet pipe for the bilge pump has been installed properly so it will be much easier to use in future.

Website.

The Website has been updated. There are lots of new photos in the Photo Gallery and there is also information about the Welsh Waterway Festival plus Campsite, Boat, Exhibitor and Trader Application Forms. Visit the Website at –

www.neath-tennant-canals.org.uk

Boat Crew.

Edwin Farrar, the Boat Co-ordinator, would like more members to volunteer as Boat Crew Members. The boat will be running from Easter to September 2011. Edwin will be contacting members in the New Year regarding boat crew training.

Welsh Waterways Festival.

As mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, the festival committee has been working hard in preparation for this important event. Work is being carried out by contractors at the moment along the stretch of canal alongside the Festival site. The non-towpath side has been cleared of trees and bushes and has been landscaped. The canal has been cleared of weeds and dredged. The towpath side has been cleared of bushes and undergrowth and the towpath improved. Planning permission has sought to repair the bridge (a Grade 2 Listed Structure) to Ynysarwed Farm. Members are reminded to keep the weekend of May 27th to 30th 2011 free to help out at the event. Please contact any Council of Management member to volunteer. Help will be required in the months and weeks leading up to the 27th May, so volunteer now! Look out for the following website which will be up and running soon –

www.welshwaterwaysfestival.co.uk

A Very Happy Christmas to all our Members



Nadolig Llawn



Canal improvements at the Festival Site – December 2010

Back in September the 'Thomas Dadford' made an historic trip from Neath town centre up the Neath Canal to Abergarwed, just beyond Ynysbwilog. The purpose of this trip was to make a survey of the canal to test bridge clearances, water depth, mooring points etc. These photographs, taken by Anthony Pugh and Peter Ricketts, record the boat's progress on that day.



Tonna Lock



Lock Machin



Ynysnedd



Clyne Lock



Two views of Clyne Upper Lock.



Two views of Ynysbwllog Aqueduct.



Ynysbwllog Aqueduct.



The A465 Bridge



Just upstream of the new launching ramp.



Abergarwed

.....and just upstream from the last photo, the site of the 2011 Welsh Waterway Festival and IWA National Trail Boat Festival.

Welsh Waterway Festival incorporating the IWA National Trail Boat Festival.

The Stakeholder Members of the Waterways Festival and IWA National Trail Boat Festival have met regularly and to date have held six meetings.

Members of the Stakeholders Committee are:-

Bob Minty, Manager Neath Canal Navigation Company.

Peter Ricketts MBE, Neath & Tennant Canals Trust.

Malcolm Smith, Neath & Tennant Canals Trust.

Ian Milne, Neath & Tennant Canals Trust.

Karleigh Davies, Tourism Development NPTCBC.

Lindsey Williams, Property & Regeneration NPTCBC.

Colin Powell, Parks & Neighbourhood Services NPTCBC.

Peter Mayberry, Ynysarwed Farm.

Sarah Mayberry-Thomas, Ynysarwed Farm.

Craig Thomas, Ynysarwed Farm.

Anthony Pugh, IWA South Wales Branch Secretary.

The Committee are responsible for the overseeing of the arrangements for the festival which include – risk assessments, monitoring the necessary statutory licensing agreements for the holding of the festival, arrangements of parking facilities and festival site layout and formalising agreements with the site owners, statutory requirements – policing, fire safety, traffic and pedestrian control, first aid/ambulance facility.

There is also the considerable job of setting out the layout of the festival site – trade stands and display stands, marquees for the various stands and catering, staging the main events in the festival show ring and accommodation for visiting caravans and campers.

The key posts to organise the duties involved in the festival are:-

Peter Ricketts – Chairman of Festival Committee.

Colin Powell – Site Manager and Financial Controller.

Anthony Pugh – Health & Safety Co-ordinator.

Malcolm Smith – Harbour Master.

Karleigh Davies – Publicity.

Peter Mayberry – Site Owner and Accommodation Manager.



Running in parallel with the main Stakeholder Committee is a Sub Committee charged with carrying out the duties outlined by the Stakeholders.

The Sub Committee is comprised of interested Trust and IWA members and members of the Neath Port Talbot County Boprough Council and are responsible for finalising the arrangements agreed at the Stakeholder meetings. The Sub Committee is accountable to the main committee and reports back regularly on progress to date.

Members of the Sub Committee:-

Peter Rickets, N&TCT.

Peter Mayberry, Site Owner.

Colin Powell, NPTCBC.

J.Williams, NPTCBC.

Anthony Pugh, IWA.

Margaret Gwalter, IWA.

Malcolm Smith, N&TCT.

Ian Milne, N&TCT

The Trust to date has obtained a Y Gronfa Wledig Grant (NPTCBC) of £8,000 for towpath improvement work at Ynysarwed and is applying to St. Modwen Environmental Trust for assistance with funding for Listed Building work to be carried out on the Ynysarwed Festival Site access bridge.



Work in progress near Ynysarwed Farm – December 2010

**Neath and Tennant Canals Trust.
Council of Management 2010 – 2011.**

Chairman: Vacant

Vice-Chairman and Work Party Organiser: Malcolm Smith Tel: 01792 774991

General Secretary: Ian Milne Tel: 01792 547902

Company Secretary – Huw James.

Treasurer: Trevor Morgan.

Membership Secretary: Trevor Morgan.

Social Secretary: Vacant.

Publicity Officer: Vacant

Newsletter Editor: Ted Porter.

Other Directors:

Edwin Farrar
Mike Jones.

Jean Morgan
Peter Ricketts.

Articles, letters, photographs etc. are always needed to keep your newsletters interesting. All contributions should be sent to the Editor:

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- by the first week of the month of publication i.e. March,
June, September and December.